

British Automobile

2304 Wrenside Lane, Kettering, Ohio (937) 434-1750

Volume 2, Issue 3

May/June 2000

The British Museum of Transportation

Dixmyth

British Museum of Transportation

The Society has been and is in the process of trying to obtain a building to house the Museum, it's display cars, library, art gallery and gift shop. Right now, there are three buildings under consideration. This is by no means the limits of the search, however these locations are all good and show promise. None are move in and use condition, and much preparation will be required before any of them could be ready to display cars. Other functions may be available earlier depending on the actual facility and it's available usable space. At the same time, the Society is pursuing grants so that when a building is available, money can be obtained for remodeling, repairs, or whatever needs to be done. We will keep you informed as to the progress of these issues.

Society membership is now at 20 and includes individual, family, sustaining and corporate memberships. We want to thank all of

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Tri-State British Automobile Event Calendar

Events in the Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland and Indianapolis Areas, 2000.

Dave Lindsey

Central Ohio Mini Owners

- July 7-9 Mini-Sprite Can Am, Gingerman Racetrack, South Haven, MI.
Judy Cull @ 616-949-8281
- July 15-16 20th Annual British Car Day
Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix
Schenley Park.
- July 16 British Car Day, Cincinnati.
Edgewater Park. Call Jay Kolb at
(513) 777-1873 for information.
- July 23-27 2000 Conclave, Austin Healey.
Indianapolis, IN. Call 317-773-
8676 for information.
- August 5 British Car Day, Dayton. Eastwood
Metro Park. Call Skip Peterson at
(937) 293-2819 for info.
- August 11-13 TRF Summer Party, Armagh, PA.
Call 1-800-234-1104 for info.
- August 11-13 Mini Jamboree. MOOSO & Minis
of Winsor. Smithville, ON, CAN.
Call 905-957-2429 for info.
- August 16-20 2000 Encounter, Austin Healey,
USA. Valley Forge, PA. Call
613-386-3797 for info.
- August 17-20 Summer Party 2000, Chicagoland
MG Club. Abingdon, IL.
- August 24-27 Austin Healey Meet. AH Club of
Canada. Kingston, ON, CAN
Call 613-386-3797 for info.
- August 26-27 Vintage Races, Mid-Ohio Race
Course. Includes GT-5 Invitational

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MEMBERSHIPS

- **Individual Membership - \$25 per year:** Member receives One (1) membership card, free admission for the membership holder, 10% discount at the museum gift shop and the Museum Newsletter.
- **Family Membership - \$45 per year:** Family Members receive Two (2) membership cards, admission for the card holders and up to four (4) children, 10% discount at the museum gift shop and the Museum Newsletter.
- **Contributing Membership - \$100 per year:** Contributing members receive the same as Family Memberships plus 10% discount off fees for any classes or seminars held by the museum.
- **Sustaining Membership - \$250 per year:** Sustaining members receive the same as Family Memberships plus %25 discount off fees for any classes or seminars held by the museum.
- **Founding Membership - \$5,000 per year:** Available only for the first five (5) years of the Society's existence. Founding members will receive five (5) membership cards and admission for the card holders and up to 10 children, 10% discount at the museum gift shop, the Museum Newsletter, free access to any class or seminar held by the Museum and a commemorative brick with the founders name which will be placed outside the Museum.
- **Organization and Business:**

- **Gold: \$1,500 per year:** Gold Business members will receive the Museum Newsletter, 1/2 page advertisement in the Newsletter and a Corporate Display Plaque denoting "Gold" membership.
- **Silver: \$1,000 per year:** Silver Business members will receive the Museum Newsletter, 1/4 page advertisement in Newsletter and Corporate Display Plaque denoting "Silver" membership.
- **Bronze: \$500 per year:** Bronze Business members will receive the Museum Newsletter, 1/8 page advertisement (business card size) in Newsletter, and Corporate Display Plaque denoting "Bronze" membership.

Automotive Trivia

Dayton and Montgomery County residents travel too much. In 1998, Dayton residents drove an average of 27.4 miles each day in their cars. That is more than residents in Cleveland and Chicago. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that the Dayton area has a higher density of roadways per person than other US cities of similar size.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dixmyth

British Museum of Transportation

Well, it is that time of year and we need to hold the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Society for the Preservation of British Transportation in America. This Society is the governing body for the British Museum of Transportation. We encourage that you as members attend this meeting with the election of officers for the next business year. This meeting is required by the Society by-laws which are a part of our Corporate Charter with the State of Ohio. The meeting information is as follows:

Date: August 30, 2000

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Party Room, Cassano's Pizza and Subs, 1700 E. Stroop Road, Kettering, OH.

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided starting at 7:00 and the meeting will commence at 8:00. The Society Board will provide information on the current status of the Society and the Museum, forthcoming plans, and elections of officers for the next FY will be held. If you are unable to attend, please sign and send in the proxy statement enclosed with this newsletter so we know you have had a part in the operations and directions of the Society.

Present Society Officers are as follows:

President: John Wolfe

Vice President: Michael Edgerton

Secretary/Treasurer: Richard Smith

Officer at Large: Michael Smith

The slate of officers proposed for the next FY will be the same as those above. Other nominations will be accepted up to August 26th, by mail to Richard R. Smith, 2304 Wrenside Lane, Kettering, Ohio 45440-2324. Only current paid up members paid up as of 1 August or prior to the meeting are allowed to vote.



Calendar, continued

- August 27 British Car Day, Boot N' Bonnet. Kingston, ON, CAN. Call 613-386-3797 for info.
- September PRODUCTION OF THE MINI CLASSIC ENDS.** Month of mourning, wear black arm bands at all car events.
- Sept. 10 Boonshoft Museum Concours D'Elegance. Ferrari & Ford are Featured cars. Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Dayton, Ohio. Call Skip Peterson @ 937-293-2819.
- Sept. 21-24 British Invasion, Stowe, VT. Call 508-497-9655 for info.
- Oct 2-8 Valvoline Runoffs. Presented by NAPA Auto Parts, Mid Ohio Race Course, Lexington, Ohio.

Please send any additional listings, corrections, and or updates to COMO, care of David Lindsey at djl@erinet.com.

British Museum of Transportation, continued

you who have supported us in this endeavor even though your total benefit so far has been in the form of a bi-monthly newsletter. The income has allowed us to obtain the Tax Exempt status from the IRS and will provide us the funds to establish copyright and trademark protections that we will need. Income from t-shirt sales has also helped greatly in building up the Society treasury.

The British Museum of Transportation has implemented a Web site with interacting pages describing the Mission and Goals of the Society and the calendar of upcoming British Car events. Check out the site at:

<http://hometown.aol.com/britcarmuseum/index.html>

The British Museum of Transportation wants to welcome new member Matt Schneider. Matt is a long time Ohio Mini Owner club member as well as a member of the MG Car Club, Southwestern Ohio Centre. Matt resides in Beavercreek and owns various Minis and an MGB GT.



Any correspondence or inquiries may be directed to Dick Smith at 2304 Wrenside Lane, Kettering, Ohio 45440-2324 . Phone is (937) 434-1750.

The British Museum of Transportation is a unit of the Society for the Preservation of British Transportation in America, Inc. British Automobile is published BI-monthly and is the organ of the British Museum of Transportation.



Unique British Cars at Mid -Ohio

Mike Edgerton

British Museum of Transportation

We ventured to the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course for the annual Sprint Vintage Grand Prix where, according to pre-race publicity, "history on four wheels comes alive." They were correct as hundreds of vintage sports and race cars slithered their way around Mid-Ohio's 2.4-mile, 15-turn road course.

Local weather called for scattered showers. They were also correct as rain began to fall when the small-bore production cars were due on the grid. There were quite a few no-shows using excuses such as "I don't race in the rain," "no rain tires" and "Lucas electrics." Rain also dampened the spectator Concours entries where you can usually spot some rare and/or unusual British modes of transportation.

We positioned our motorhome on the outside of the carrousel where we had a good view of the racing action, rain or shine. This spot also gave us easy access to the grid where we went in search of unusual vintage British car marqueses. While the race program was liberally laced with the more common British makes such as Austin-Healey, Jaguar, Lotus, MG, Mini, Morgan and Triumph, we concentrated on the uncommon.

Bill Clark was up from Nashville in a bright yellow '62 Fairthorpe Electron (Figure 1, next page). This model Fairthorpe sports a 1300cc Spitfire engine and a fiberglass body. The power

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Unique British Cars at Mid-Ohio, continued

to weight ratio allows the Electron to reach three digit speeds. Fairthorpe, Ltd. was founded in 1952 by Air Vice-Marshall Donald "Pathfinder" Bennett, an ex officer in the in the RAF Bomber Command. Other Fairthorpe models included the Atom, Atomota, Electrrina, Rockette and Zeta. All Fairthorps built after '58 were available in kit form. Fairthorpe survived until the late '70s, long after their main competitors such as Berkeley, Buckler and Turner fell by the wayside.

The Ginetta is a rare bird and two distinctively different models appeared at Mid-Ohio. John Sanbrook's G15 (Figure 3) is a slick little coupe powered by a Hillman Imp engine in the rear. John told us that he had just repainted the car in "racers tape silver" so that all his patchwork would not be so obvious. Larry Neviasher's 2-seat sports G4 (Figure 2) looks like a baby Lister Jaguar and was produced with a 1340cc Ford engine. The G5 Ginetta had a 1500cc Cortina engine but everybody still referred to it as a G4. Since Larry has a 1500cc engine, we believe it is a G5. There is a G4 vintage racer for sale in Maryland for \$35,000 if you are interested.

Ginetta was founded by the four Walklett brothers in '58 with a highly modified Wolseley Hornet. The G4 was introduced in '61 with a Triumph Herald front suspension and Ford Anglia live rear axle. Ginetta models were serially numbered with the G15 going into production in '68. Three of the founding Walklett brothers retired in 1989 while Ivor remained until 1992. Today the Company is owned by a consortium of enthusiast businessmen from Belgium, France, Japan and the UK and though much has changed in the Company's structure, the aims remain much as they ever were; to continue producing innovative, capable and above all, affordable sports cars. The latest model is the G34.

You may know the name Tom Mittler. Tom has been seen on track at various vintage races in his Mini pickup. Tom also owns and races a meticulously restored '55 Jaguar D-Type (Figure 4). Tom was at Mid-Ohio with both vehicles. The D-Jag was the car that

monopolized LeMans during the '50s. In 1953, D-Jags finished first, second and fourth with a record average speed of 105.85 m.p.h. They finished first, fourth and sixth in '56 and swept the first four places in '57. Jaguar designed a street version of the D-Jag known as the XK-SS. Only sixteen cars were produced before a fire destroyed the factory on February 12, 1957.

Hope you weren't expecting race results. We were so fascinated with the cars we neglected to record the order of finish. ⇔



Society Memberships

The following is a list of members of the Society for the Preservation of British Cars in America and shows the expiration date of the respective members. Please renew your membership when it is due and help keep the Society workings continue..

<u>Name</u>	<u>Membership #</u>	<u>Exp. Date</u>
Brown, Gary	BRO001	8/7/00
Clark, John	CLA001	10/25/00
Edgerton, Mike	EDG001	8/7/00
Hammond, William	HAM001	8/7/00
Hooker, Joe	HOO001	8/7/00
Johnson, Philip	JOH001	8/7/00
Miller, Steve	MIL001	8/7/00
Smith, Michael	SMI002	8/7/00
Smith, Thomas	SMI003	8/7/00
Smith, Mike & Kaday	SMI004	8/7/00
Wolfe, John	WOL001	8/7/00
Cunningham, Ian	CUN001	9/26/00
Smith, Mark & Ceci	SMI005	11/19/00
Stroble, Pete & Nancy	STO001	12/6/00
MG Car Club	MGC001	12/31/00
Schneider, Matt	SCH001	7/1/01
Smith, Richard	SMI001	8/7/01
Sparklin, Karl & Ellen	SPA001	8/7/01



The Society is now offering T-Shirts for sale to help support the British Museum of Transportation. These T-Shirts sell for \$10 each. Ohio residents will be required to add 65 cents for sale tax. Shipping costs will be by priority mail at \$3.20 for up to two shirts. Sizes run medium, large, xlarge and xxlarge. Orders can be placed by mail. Send check or money order to:

The British Museum of Transportation
 2304 Wrenside Lane
 Kettering, OH 45440-232

PROXY STATEMENT

If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting of Members of the Society for the Preservation of British Transportation in America on August 30th., please fill out the following statement and return it to the address below by the 26th of August.

Member name: _____

Membership Number (See Newsletter Page 4) : _____

Slate of Officers to be elected:

	<u>Proposed by Board</u>	<u>Write-in Nomination</u>
President:	John Wolfe	_____
Vice-President:	Michael Edgerton	_____
Secretary/Treasurer:	Richard R. Smith	_____
Board Member at Large:	Michael Smith	_____

I approve the slate of officers as listed above and give them my vote: _____
Signature

I have made other nominations for officers as listed above: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Send Proxy Statement to : Richard R. Smith, 2304 Wrenside Lane, Kettering, OH 45440-2324.

Application for Membership
The Society for the Preservation of British Transportation in America
dba British Museum of Transportation

Name: _____

Street: _____ City _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Type:

Amount:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25 per year) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$45 per year) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member (\$100 per year) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member (\$250 per year) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Founding Member (\$5,000 per year) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization and Business: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold (\$1,500 per year) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver (\$1,000 per year) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze (\$500 per year) | _____ |

The British Museum of Transportation is Raffling off a set of four painted wire wheels, a pair of die cast models and other items in their first fund raiser. Below is a copy of the raffle ticket. They are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. If you would like to purchase a chance (chances) for these prizes, fill out the information below and send it with a check for the appropriate amount to address below. Tickets will be filled out for you from the information below and placed in the container for the drawing.


NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE , ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

BRITISH MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION	
WIRE WHEEL & DIE CAST MODEL RAFFLE	
	
AUGUST 1999	TO JUNE 2000

Drawing to be held at British Car Days, Dayton, Ohio, August 5, 2000.

Mail Membership application and/or raffle information to:

The British Museum of Transportation
c/o Dick Smith
2304 Wrenside Lane
Kettering, Ohio 45440-2324